

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION**

WHITNEY DESIGN, INC.,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 4:08CV01140 CDP
	)	
B & R PLASTICS, INC.,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND DEFENDANT'S AMENDED  
COUNTERCLAIM AGAINST PLAINTIFF**

COMES NOW Defendant, by and through counsel, Erik G. Fischer, P.C., and for its Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, states as follows:

1. Defendant admits Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
2. Defendant admits Paragraph 4 in that the Court has jurisdiction under the patent laws to determine a Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, but denies that venue is appropriate as Defendant believes venue is appropriate in the Federal District Court of Colorado.
3. Defendant admits the allegations contained in Paragraphs 5 and 6.
4. Defendant denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 7 that the step stool of Whitney Design, Inc. does not infringe the 566' Patent.
5. Defendant denies the allegation contained in Paragraph 8 that the '566 Patent is invalid, void or unenforceable pursuant to any of the criteria outlined in the Complaint.
5. Defendant denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 9 of the Complaint.

**DEFENDANT'S AMENDED COUNTERCLAIM AGAINST PLAINTIFF**

COMES NOW Defendant, by and through counsel, Erik G. Fischer, P.C., and asserts the following Counterclaim against the Plaintiff in this action, and in support of same states as follows:

**GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

1. Defendant is the exclusive licensee of a Patent designed and invented as a foldable stool. Said Design Patent was issued to inventor Reed E. Henschel and Brad Eveleth under Patent No. US D460,566 S on July 16, 2002. A copy of said Patent is attached hereto as "Exhibit A".
2. Defendant is the exclusive licensee of the patent-in-suit with substantially all of the rights to the patent.
3. Plaintiff, through its divisions, subsidiaries and/or agents, is engaged, inter alia, in the business of manufacturing, marketing, distributing and selling an infringing product advertised as a folding step stool.
4. The Folding Step Stool is a direct knock-off of one (1) of Defendant's products.
5. The Plaintiff's product uses Defendant's patent and technology or a reasonable facsimile therefore in direct competition with Defendant's own product.
6. Upon information and belief, the Plaintiff is fully aware of Defendant's Patent and product as Plaintiff's product is an almost identical duplication of the advertising contained on said product.
7. Upon information and belief, the Plaintiff's importer from China has been put on notice by Defendant through various correspondence related to the improper manufacture of said product.

8. Despite being put on notice of the infringement, Plaintiff continues to make, distribute, advertise, market and sell the Folding Step Stool which infringes on the Patent licensed to Defendant.

9. Plaintiff's acts of marketing, distributing, and otherwise infringing against Defendant has occurred throughout the United States.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**(Patent Infringement)**

10. Defendant incorporates and restates the foregoing allegations as set forth above as though fully set forth herein.

11. Plaintiff is infringing Defendant's Patent by, inter alia, manufacturing, distributing, advertising, marketing and selling the Step N' Store Stool. Such infringement is deliberate, willful, intentional and with full knowledge of the existence and validity of the Patent licensed to Defendant.

12. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff has been infringing the Patent for approximately six (6) months. Plaintiff's infringement has continued to date and will continue unless enjoined by the Court.

13. As a direct and proximate result of Plaintiff's actions, Defendant has suffered damages in an amount to be ascertained at trial.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**(Injunction)**

14. Defendant incorporates and restates the allegations set forth above as though fully set forth herein.

15. As a direct and proximate result of Plaintiff's actions of infringing the Patent licensed to Defendant, Defendant has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable harm.

16. Defendant has no adequate remedy at law if Plaintiff continues to infringe the Patent licensed to Defendant.

17. Defendant has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable harm and damage unless a preliminary and final injunction are issued enjoining Plaintiff from infringing the Patent licensed to Defendant.

18. Defendant will likely prevail on the merits of the case at trial.

### **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **(Unfair Competition)**

19. Defendant incorporates and restates the allegations set forth above as though fully set forth herein.

20. Defendant has invested substantial time, energy and resources in developing, marketing, and selling products covered by the Patent.

21. By the above mentioned activities, Plaintiff has misappropriated Defendant's efforts and such are being improperly used by Plaintiff to compete with Defendant in the United States.

22. Plaintiff has usurped Defendant's competitive advantage and interfered with the operation of Defendant's legitimate business.

23. Plaintiff's conduct and activities constitute unfair competition against Defendant.

24. Plaintiff's conduct and activities have damaged Defendant in an amount to be determined at trial which is in excess of \$75,000.00 and, unless enjoined, will seriously impair the value of Defendant's business.

**WHEREFORE**, Defendant prays for judgment against the Plaintiff as follows:

- (a) That it be adjudged that the Patent licensed to Defendant has been infringed by Plaintiff;
- (b) Award Defendant a preliminary and permanent final injunction against the continued infringement;
- (c) Order an accounting of Plaintiff's sales, profits, cost of goods sold and other relevant financial information as it relates to the Folding Step Stool;
- (d) Award Defendant damages against Plaintiff in an amount adequate to compensate Defendant for such infringement and not less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs, in an amount to be ascertained;
- (e) Award Defendant an additional sum on account of the willful, intentional and deliberate character of Plaintiff's infringing acts pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 284;
- (f) Award Defendant reasonable attorney fees and costs against Plaintiff; and
- (g) Grant Defendant all other legal and equitable relief for which Defendant is entitled.

**DEFENDANT DEMANDS A JURY OF 12.**

Dated this 4th day of May, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erik G. Fischer, PC*



/s/ Erik G. Fischer

Erik G. Fischer, #16856

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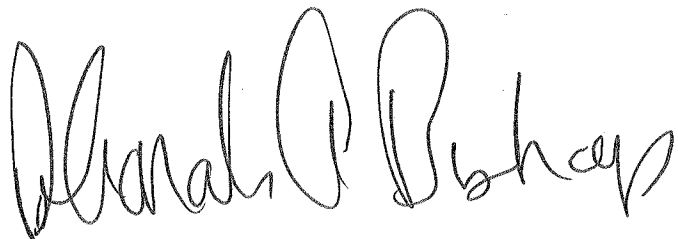
[efischer@fischerandfischerlaw.com](mailto:efischer@fischerandfischerlaw.com)

*Attorney for B & R Plastics, Inc.*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 4th day of May, 2009, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND DEFENDANT'S AMENDED COUNTERCLAIM AGAINST PLAINTIFF** was e-served with notice e-mailed to the following:

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(12) **United States Design Patent** (10) Patent No.: **US D460,566 S**  
 Henschel et al. (45) Date of Patent: **Jul. 16, 2002**

(54) **FOLDABLE STOOL**

(57) **CLAIM**

(76) Inventors: **Reed E. Henschel, 219 Main St., P.O. Box 337, Faith, SD (US) 57626; Brud Ewoleth, Box 68-5 P.O. HC 59, Edgemont, SD (US) 57735**

The ornamental design for a foldable stool, as shown and described.

**DESCRIPTION**

(\*\*) Term: **14 Years**

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the present invention in an open position;  
 FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the present invention in an open position;  
 FIG. 3 is a front elevational view of the present invention in an open position;  
 FIG. 4 is a right side view of the present invention in an open position;  
 FIG. 5 is a rear elevational view of the present invention in an open position;  
 FIG. 6 is a left side view of the present invention in an open position;  
 FIG. 7 is a bottom plan view of the present invention in an open position;  
 FIG. 8 is a perspective view of the present invention in a folded or collapsed position;  
 FIG. 9 is a top plan view of the present invention in a folded or collapsed position;  
 FIG. 10 is a front elevational view of the present invention in a folded or collapsed position;  
 FIG. 11 is a right side view of the present invention in a folded or collapsed position;  
 FIG. 12 is a rear elevational view of the present invention in a folded or collapsed position;  
 FIG. 13 is a left side view of the present invention in a folded or collapsed position; and,  
 FIG. 14 is a bottom plan view of the present invention in a folded or collapsed position.

(21) Appl. No.: **29/144,406**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 2, 2001**

(51) LOC (7) Cl. **25-04**

(52) U.S. Cl. **D25/65**

(58) Field of Search **D25/65, 62, 63; 108/124, 129, 130, 131, 132; 16/DIG. 13; 297/44, 42, 188.1**

(56) **References Cited**

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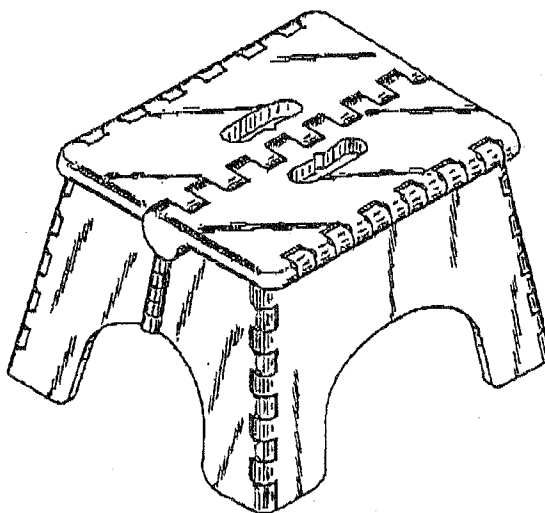
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Primary Examiner—Stella Reid

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Kinney & Lange, P.A.

1 Claim, 13 Drawing Sheets

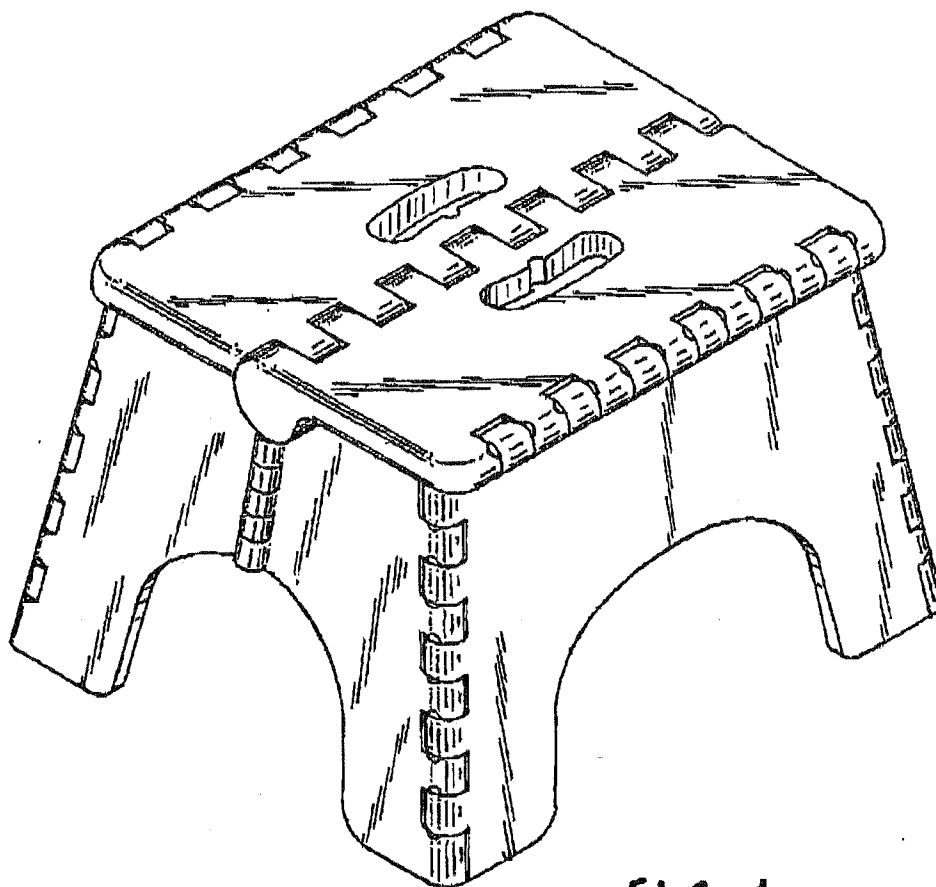


**U.S. Patent**

Jul. 16, 2002

Sheet 1 of 13

**US D460,566 S**



**FIG. 1**

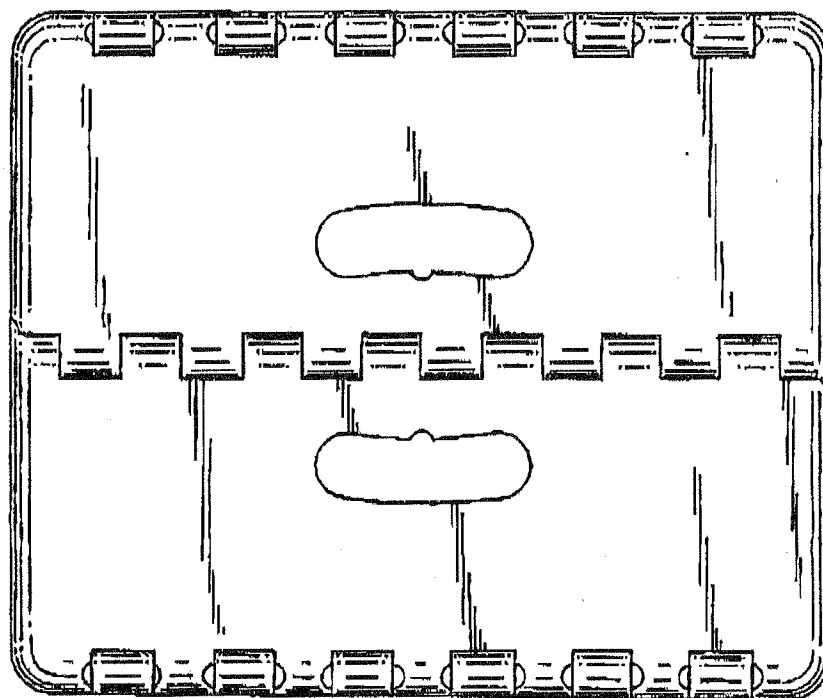


**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 2 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



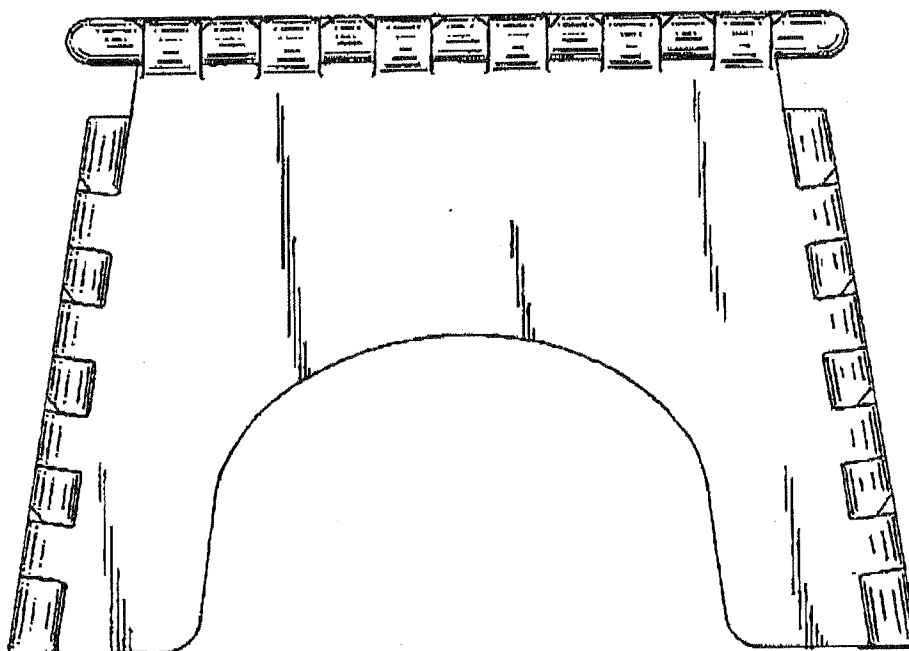
**FIG. 2**

**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 3 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



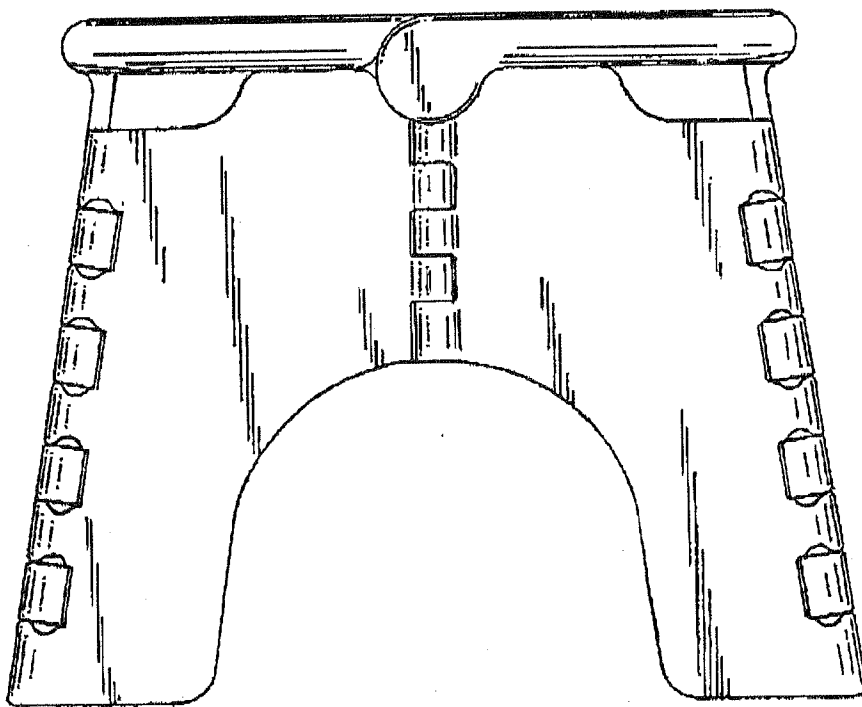
**FIG. 3**

**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 4 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



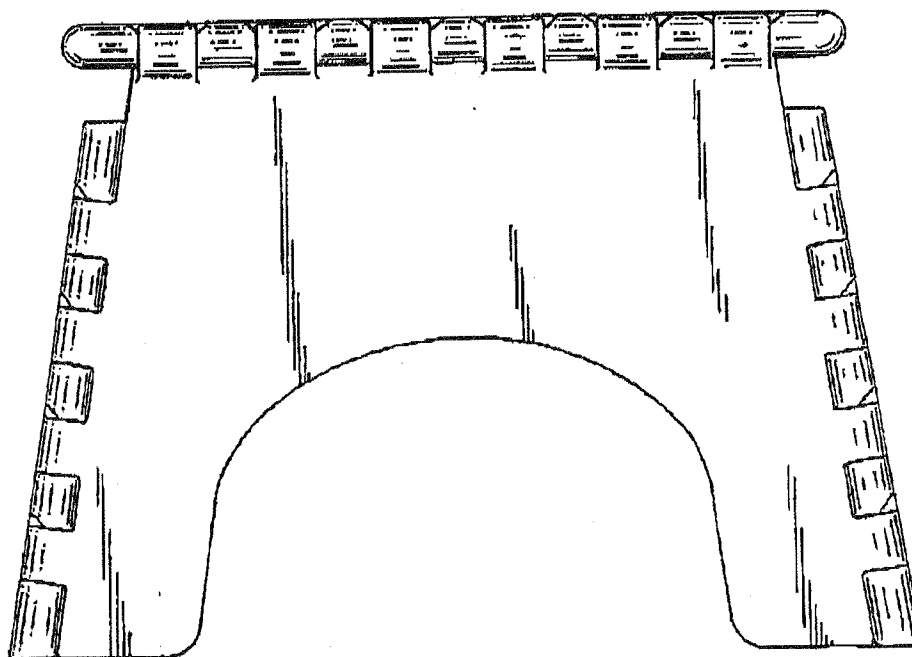
**FIG. 4**

**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 5 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



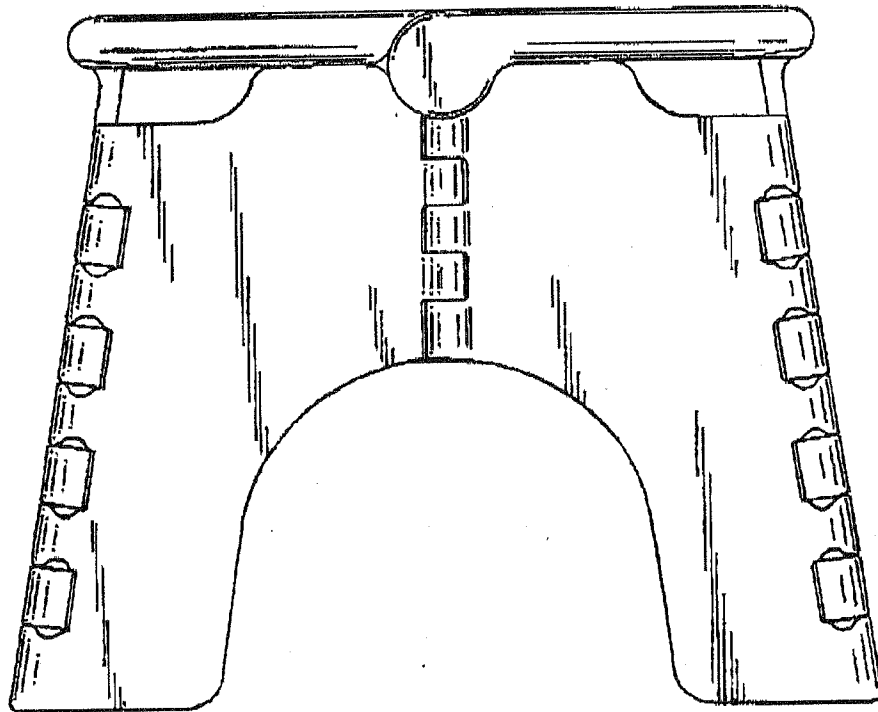
**FIG. 5**

**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 6 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



**FIG. 6**

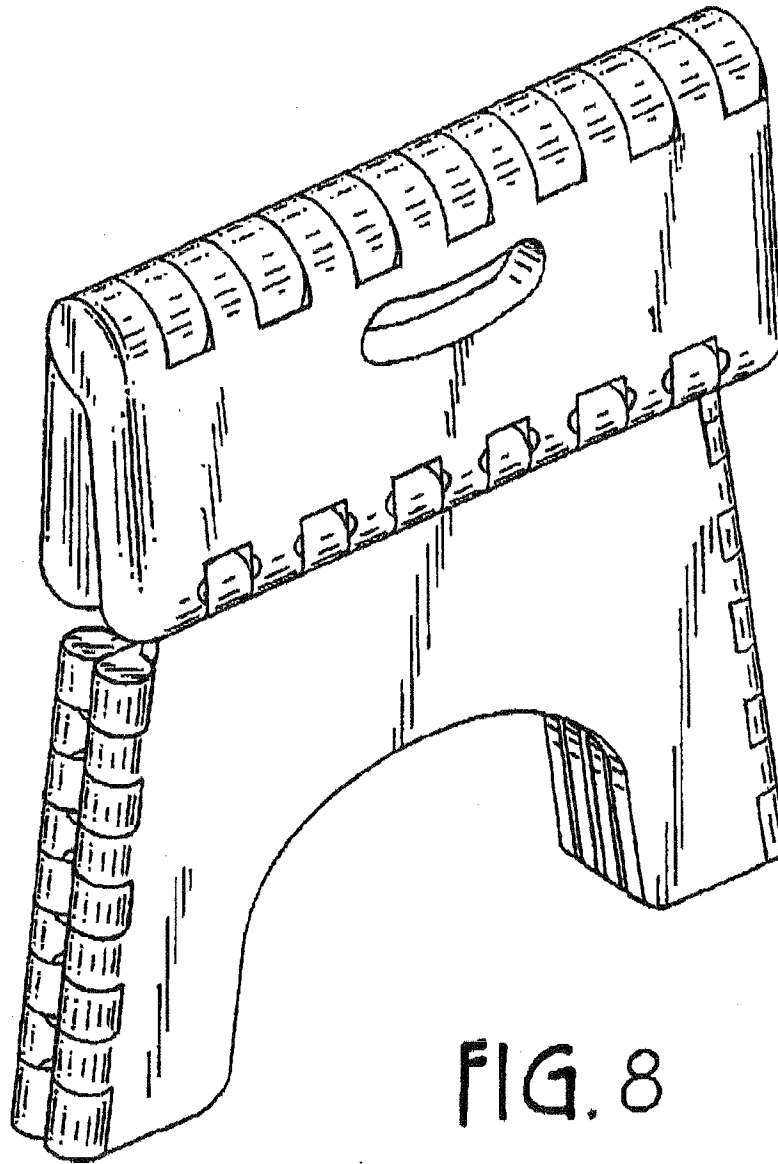


**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 8 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



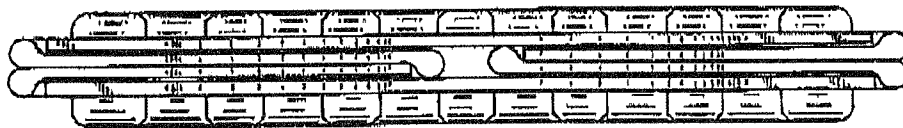
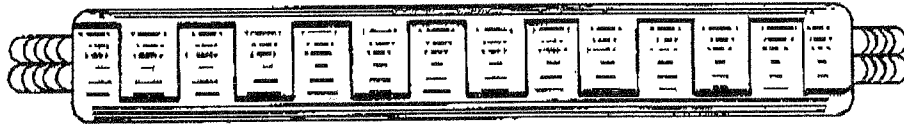
**FIG. 8**

**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

Sheet 9 of 13

**US D460,566 S**



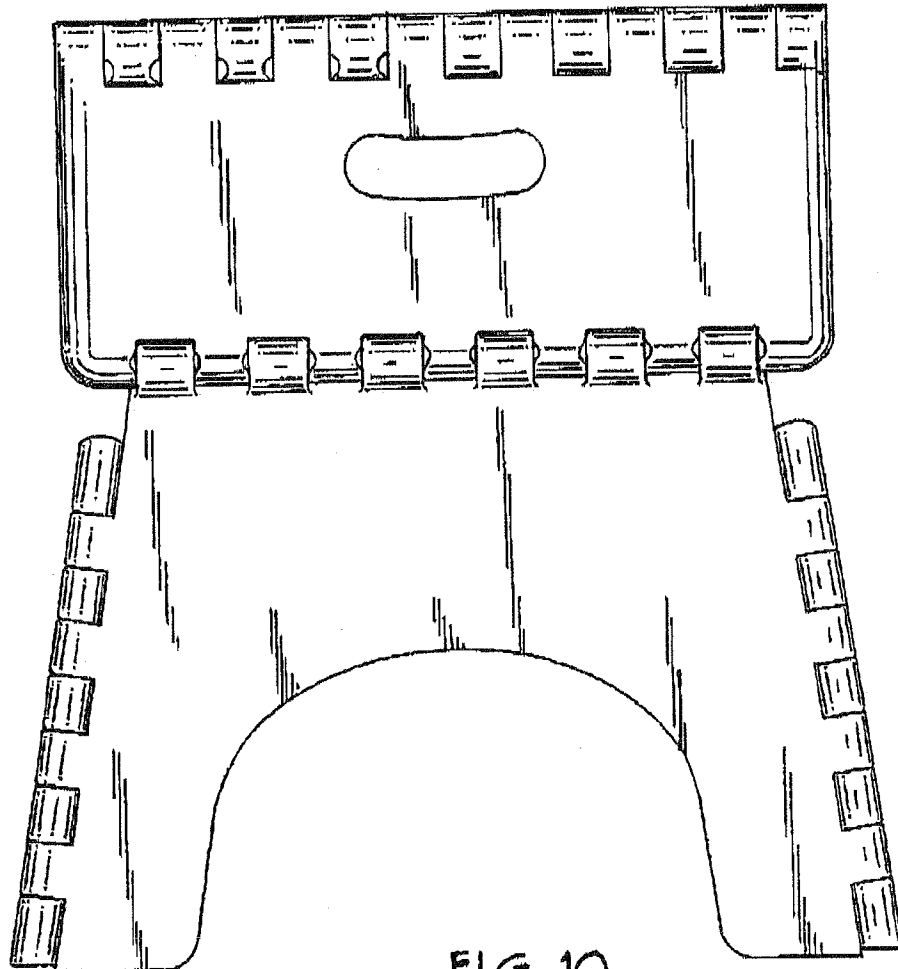


**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 10 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



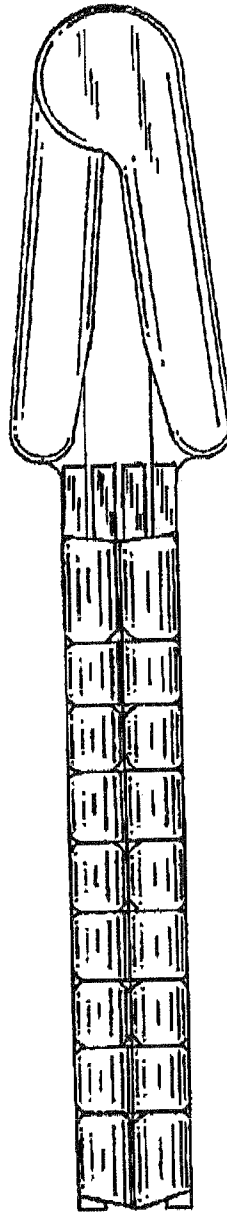
**FIG. 10**

**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 11 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



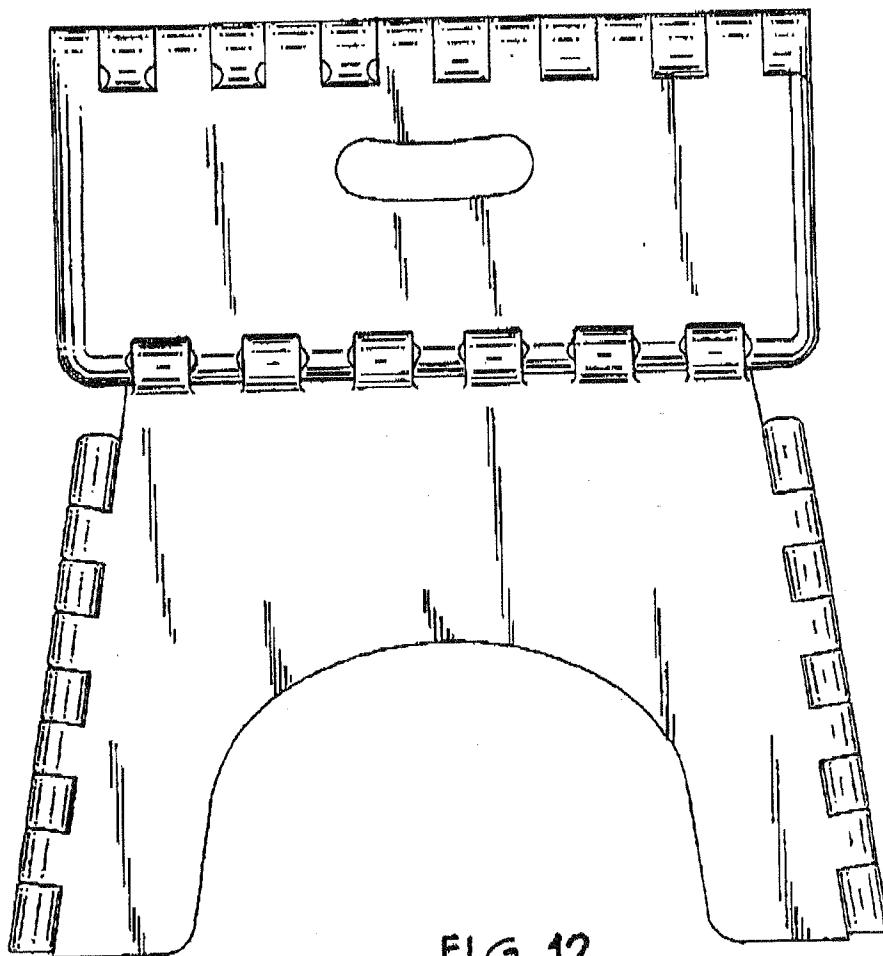
**FIG. 11**

**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 12 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



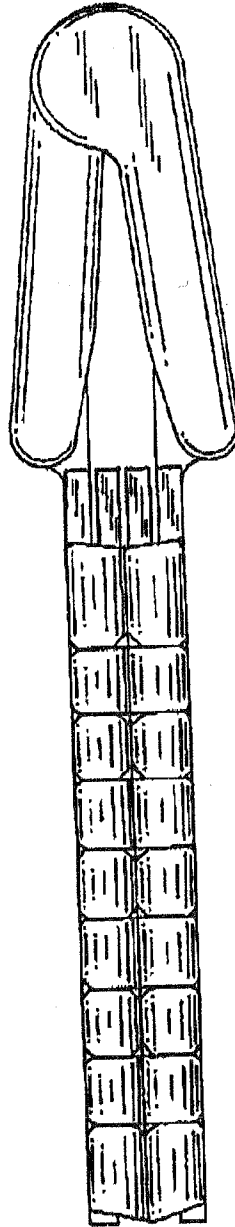
**FIG. 12**

**U.S. Patent**

**Jul. 16, 2002**

**Sheet 13 of 13**

**US D460,566 S**



**FIG. 13**